

Uinta-Watach-Cache National Forest - Spanish Fork Ranger District
BENNION ALLOTMENT
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
2016

PERMITTED USE

Permittee	Permitted Use	Authorized Use	Brand	Brand Location
Alan Rex and Elizabeth B. Mitchell	144 cow/calf 05/01 to 08/31 10/01 to 11/14	144 cow/calf 04/30 to 08/30 10/01 to 11/14	⌋	LH

GRAZING ROTATION

The Bennion Allotment is managed with two, four pasture modified rest rotation systems. The grazing rotation for the 2016 season is listed below:

Unit	Livestock Numbers	Dates of Use*	Days
Sharpes Valley	144 cow/calf	05/01 to 06/11	42
Middle	144 cow/calf	06/12 to 07/01	20
Wayne Cook/FS Horse Pasture**	144 cow/calf	07/02 to 07/22	21
Hansen Hollow	144 cow/calf	07/23 to 08/01	10
East Reservoir	144 cow/calf	08/02 to 08/31	30
Private Land	144 cow/calf	09/01 to 09/30	0
Dunbar	144 cow/calf	10/01 to 11/14	45
Sage Valley Bend	REST	REST	
Total			168

**The above rotation dates are flexible based on utilizations listed below.*

**The Forest Service Horse Pasture can only be used if the fence is repaired to keep the cattle out of the Bennion Creek Pipeline Pond.*



FOREST PLAN AND ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS

The Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, which was approved in 2003 and the allotment management plan for the Bennion Allotment which was approved on April, 2010 list the following standards, guidelines and objectives:

Upland Forage Utilization

Standard: Limit grazing to meet the following utilization levels on non-riparian vegetation types based on the annual average of the current year's growth. However, through June 15 at Strawberry Reservoir Management Area and through June 1 at the Vernon Management Area, minimum canopy cover and height requirements for greater sage grouse habitat take precedence over the forage utilization standards in the following table.

Forage Utilization Standards

<i>Vegetation Type</i>	Forage Utilization	
	Very Early – Early Seral	Mid – Late Seral
General Uplands and Winter Range		
Upland shrublands (sagebrush, snowberry, mountain mahogany species, cliffrose, bitterbrush, saltbrush, and mountain brush)	40%	60%
Grasslands	45%	65%
Forest-wide		
Sub-alpine shrublands	25%	35%
Sub-alpine grasslands	40%	45%

For sagebrush types in the Dunbar and Sharpes Valley units, those areas with less than 62 percent ground cover (70 percent of potential effective ground cover) will be grazed at no more than 40 percent utilization.

For pinyon-juniper types in the Dunbar and Sharpes Valley units, those areas with less than 60 percent ground cover (70 percent of potential effective ground cover) will be grazed at no more than 40 percent utilization.

Guideline: Manage approximately 80 percent of potential greater sage grouse breeding and winter habitat areas in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas to support the percentages and heights of canopy cover listed in the table below. Breeding habitat should retain the given height levels of grasses and a diversity of forbs annually through June 1 in the Vernon Management Area and June 15 in the Strawberry Reservoir Management Area. Vegetation should be maintained in a mosaic of openings and shrubs.

Vegetation Requirements in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas

Vegetation Type	Minimum % Canopy Cover	Minimum Height Canopy Cover ¹	
		Vernon Management Area	Strawberry Reservoir Management Area
Greater Sage Grouse Breeding Habitat (Maintain through June 15 - Strawberry Vernon- maintain through June 1)*			
Sagebrush	15-25%	16-32 inches	16-32 inches
Grasses	≥ 15%	≥ 6 inches	≥ 7 inches
Forbs	≥ 10%	≥ 6 inches	≥ 7 inches
Greater Sage Grouse Winter Habitat			
Sagebrush	10-30% ²	10-14 inches ²	10-14 inches ²
Grasses	N/A	N/A	N/A
Forbs	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹ Minimum height is measured as droop height, the highest naturally growing portion of the plant.

² Above snow.

N/A There are no minimum percent canopy cover or minimum height requirements for greater sage grouse winter habitat in grasses or forbs.

Riparian Forage Utilization

Standard: Limit grazing to meet the following utilization levels within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs) based on the average current year's growth.

Utilization Standards by RHCA Class

RHCA Class	Minimum Percent of Stream Length	Utilization Standard by Season of Use			
		Very Early – Early		Mid – Late Seral	
		Early	Late	Early	Late
Minimum Greenline Stubble Height ¹					
Class I Above the Reservoir	90%	5”	6”	4”	5”
Class III Below the Reservoir	70%	3”	4”	2”	3”
Forage Utilization Limits ²					
Class I Above the Reservoir	90%	45%	35%	55%	45%
Class III Below the Reservoir	70%	60%	50%	65%	55%
Willow Utilization ²					
Class I Above the Reservoir	90%	N/A	35%	N/A	50%
Class III Below the Reservoir	70%	N/A	35%	N/A	50%

Note: There are no willow utilization standards for early season use.

¹ Height of key species (palatable, hydrophytic species indicative of mid to late seral riparian plant communities, or as indicated in the site-specific Allotment Management Plan). If acceptable “key species” are absent from a site, only utilization standards shall be used.

² Percent of total average annual growth.

It is the permittee’s responsibility to make sure allowable use standards are not exceeded, especially in riparian areas. Permittees are encouraged to herd cattle away from riparian areas since they are generally the first areas utilized. If use along riparian areas reaches Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, even if forage remains on the uplands, permittees will be required to remove cattle from the entire unit or allotment. Use of the rest unit will not be allowed.

Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA)

Portions of *watersheds* where *riparian*-dependent resources receive primary emphasis and management activities are subject to specific standards and guidelines. RHCAs include traditional *riparian* corridors, *wetlands*, *perennial* and *intermittent* streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic *ecosystems*. There are three RHCA classes of varying widths offering varying levels of protection: class I with widths extending 300 feet from each edge of the waterbody (600 feet total); class II with widths extending 200 feet from each edge of the waterbody (400 feet total); and class III with widths extending 100 feet from each edge of the waterbody (200 feet total).

Additional Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines

Guideline: Maintain adequate ground cover to filter runoff and prevent detrimental erosion in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs).

Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) Ground Cover Requirements

RHCA	Minimum Ground Cover Requirement	Minimum Percent of RHCA to Meet Requirement
Class I Above the Reservoir	90% of Potential	90%
Class III Below the Reservoir	80% of Potential	70%

Standard: Locate livestock salt grounds outside of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs).

Standard: Locate new livestock troughs, tanks, and holding facilities out of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs). For existing livestock handling facilities inside RHCAs, assure that facilities do not prevent attainment of aquatic Forest Plan management direction. Modify, relocate, or close existing facilities where aquatic Forest Plan management direction cannot be met.

Guideline: Minimize trailing livestock through Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. Close or relocate livestock driveways to minimize impacts to RHCAs.

Guideline: Subject to valid existing rights, free-flowing water and associated riparian vegetation communities should be retained at developed spring sites. If possible, existing spring developments should be modified to return water to riparian ecosystems within the source drainage.

Guideline: Avoid equipment operation in stream courses, open water, seeps, or springs. If use of equipment in such areas is required, impacts should be minimized.

Guideline: Limit equipment operation in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs). If the use of equipment in these areas is required, incorporate additional mitigation to minimize adverse impacts.

Guideline: Implement intensive grazing management that provides periodic rest designed to achieve and maintain desired vegetation community composition and structure.

Guideline: Maintain at least 70 percent of potential effective ground cover to provide nutrient cycling and protect the soil from erosion in excess of soil loss tolerance limits.

Standard: Provide wildlife escape ramps in all developed water sources.

Guideline: Provide for wildlife movement through and/or around structures or project sites such as fences, spring developments, guzzlers, roads, and ditches.

Guideline: Defer livestock grazing in areas disturbed by wildland fire or other natural events until vegetation has reestablished sufficiently, but for no less than two growing seasons.

Standard: Only certified noxious weed-free hay or feed is allowed on National Forest land, including hay or feed for use by recreational livestock. Any materials such as hay, straw, or mulch that are used for rehabilitation and reclamation activities shall be certified weed-free.

Other Requirements

Hauling Water: Water must be hauled at least one-half mile away from any areas in less than satisfactory condition (those areas requiring 40 percent utilization) in the Sharpes Valley or Dunbar Units.

Actual Use: Please complete the enclosed actual use record form at the close of the grazing season and return to the Spanish Fork Ranger District before December 1.

Salt: Salt will be used as a tool to improve livestock distribution. Place salt where use is light, such as ridge tops and areas away from water. Avoid stock tanks, wet meadows, and creek bottoms. Place salt away from roads and developed trails.

State Livestock Health Laws: All owners of livestock must comply with state livestock health laws.

Dead Livestock: Livestock which die within 100 yards of public roads or live water will be disposed of in a manner approved by the District Ranger or his/her representative.



Off Road Vehicle Use: Off road vehicle use for reconstruction or maintenance of range improvements (when hauling materials only) listed in these operating instructions is hereby authorized. ATV's or trucks can be used to check water. ATV's or trucks can be used to haul salt on system and non-system roads or trails. No new trails or roads can be made. Use of off road vehicles is limited to periods of time when weather and ground conditions are such that rutting and soil movement will not occur. Any other off road vehicle use shall be approved in advance (location and time) by the District Ranger or his/her representative. Absent this approval, travel restrictions described in the Forest Supervisors Order of May 27, 2005 and in the Uinta National Forest Summer Travel Map (2007) apply.

Payment of Fees: The permittee will not allow owned or controlled livestock to be on Forest Service-administered lands unless the fees specified in the Bill for Collection are paid.

Compliance: The permittee is responsible for compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permit, allotment management plan, operating instructions and the directions of the Forest Officer in charge. Failure to meet these terms and conditions is violation of the grazing permit.

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

- ✓ The permittee and Forest Service will work with GIP to provide water to one trough in the East Reservoir Pasture and two troughs in the Sage Valley Pasture. The Forest Service will provide \$5000 of the material, if GIP also provide funds. The Forest Service is awaiting water rights approval before the NEPA can be finalized.

MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

The permittee is responsible for all improvements assigned in the term grazing permit and listed in these operating instructions. Maintenance shall mean the timely repair of management facilities to a condition adequate to perpetuate the life of the facility and to serve the purpose intended. All improvements will be maintained to the standard for which they were constructed. Maintenance includes permittee responsibility for furnishing the materials needed for repairs. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained before cattle enter the allotment. Unit division fences and water developments must be maintained before cattle can enter each unit. Improvements will be maintained to the following standards:

Posts, Poles and Bucks

- Replace broken or rotten posts, bucks, brace poles and poles
- Notch poles and attach to posts or bucks with spikes
- Straighten and re-tamp loose wood brace and line posts
- Straighten or replace bent steel posts

Wire

- Replace broken wire if necessary
- Splice wire with double strand 12-gauge minimum size barbed wire or smooth wire
- Wrap end of broken wires back around itself to form eye
- Place splicing wire through eye and wrap back around itself
- Make at least three wraps in each eye

Make wraps adjacent to each other

Re-space wire where spacing has been altered

Measure spacing from ground line in inches

4-wire	16	24	32	42
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3 wire	18	28	40
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Re-stretch wires tight with consideration for contraction and expansion

Wire will not be twisted or kinked

Stays

Replace broken or missing stays

Straighten bent wire stays

Trees

Remove all fallen trees from fences

Do not use logs and/or brush instead of poles or wire

If wire is attached to trees, nail wood slab to tree and staple wire to slab

Gates

Stretch wire so gates will not sag, but easily open and close

Make gate loops with smooth wire

Wire Fasteners

Replace missing staples and steel post clip

Drive staples diagonally into bucks, braces and stays

Drive staples in wood posts, bucks and stays so wire can move

Drive staples in brace posts so wire cannot move

Water Developments

Keep troughs clean and free of debris

Repair leaks in troughs

Level water troughs

Replace broken trough braces

Replace or install small animal escape devices in troughs

Unplug pipelines if necessary

Replace trough plugs if missing

Replace broken pipes

Waterlines should be buried to protect from livestock

Clean and repair overflows

Maintain spring head fence according to above specifications

Clean spring boxes of debris and secure cover

Drain water troughs and pipelines at the end of the season

Maintain overflows from ponds, keep spillways clean and protected from washing out

Maintenance responsibilities are listed below and shown on the attached map:

Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
1	Bennion/Ault Allotment Boundary Fence	0.56 miles of wood & steel posts with 3 and 4 strands of barbed wire and wood stays	Mitchell	822008
2	Benmore/Bennion #2 Allotment Boundary Fence (Benmore Pastures/Middle Unit Boundary Fence)	1.03 miles of wood posts with net wire and 3 strands of barbed wire	Mitchell	822000
3	Bennion/Sharpes Valley Allotment Boundary Fence	0.84 miles of steel & wood posts & 4 strands of barbed wire, wood dancers	Mitchell	822003
4	Bennion/Sharpes Valley Allotment Boundary Fence Segment -2	0.072 miles of steel posts and 5 strands of barbed wire. Triangle section of fence that splits the Windmill Trough	Mitchell	822003-2
5	Bennion/Sharpes Valley Allotment Boundary Fence #2	0.66 miles of steel posts and sheep wire and 2 stands of barbed wire	Mitchell	822005
6	Bennion/Sabie Mountain Allotment Boundary Fence (Rick Fence)	1.5 miles of steel post and 4 wire barbed wire fence	Mitchell	822020
7	Middle/Bend Unit Boundary Fence	1.59 miles of wood posts and 3 strands of barbed wire	Mitchell	822001
8	Bend/Hansen Hollow Unit Boundary Fence	1.67 miles of steel posts with 4 strands of barbed wire and spiral stays	Mitchell	822002

Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
9	Sage Valley/East Reservoir Unit Boundary Fence	1.47 miles of wood & steel posts and 4 strands of barbed wire with wood dancers	Mitchell	822004
10	Sage Valley/Sharpes Valley Unit Boundary Fence	1.45 miles of wood & steel posts with sheep wire and 2 strands of barbed wire	Mitchell	822006
11	Hansen Hollow/Dunbar Unit Boundary Fence (Rock Garden)	1.45 miles of wood & steel posts and 4 strands of barbed wire	Mitchell	822015
12	Dunbar/Sharpes Valley Unit Boundary Fence	1.05 miles of wood & steel posts, net wire and 2 strand barb wire with spiral stays. 0.56 miles of wood & steel posts and 4 strands of barbed wire	Mitchell	822016 822016-1
13	Middle/Forest Service Horse Pasture Fence	0.25 miles of wood posts and net wire with net wire and 2 strands of barbed wire	Mitchell in Summer FS in Winter	821FA5
14	Sage Valley/Hansen Hollow Unit boundary Fence	2 .03 miles of wood and steel posts and 4 strands of barbed wire	Mitchell	822021
15	Vernon Creek Riparian Fence	GPS		
16	Dunbar Drift Fence (abandoned)	205.5 feet of steel past and net wire. Used to funnel livestock in to corrals and /or holding pen	None	822017
17	Dunbar Holding Pen (abandoned)	972 feet of cedar and steel posts and net wire	None	822018
18	Dunbar Corral (abandoned)	100 feet by 100 feet of wood posts with net and smooth wire	None	822019

Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
19	Middle Unit/Private Land Cattleguard	Channel steel 16'x 8' (Yellow)	Tooele County	822CG1
20	East Reservoir Unit/Private Land Cattleguard	Channel steel 12'x 8' (Yellow)	Tooele County	822CG2
21	Vernon Reservoir Cattleguard	Channel steel 14'x 8'	Forest Service Recreation	822CG3
22	Railroad Cattleguard	8 foot cattleguard Need more info Need to GPS	Tooele County	
23	Little Valley Spring Source (abandoned)	GPS proper location	None	822009S
24	Little Valley Spring Exclosure	184 feet wood posts and net wire.	FS Recreation	822RC9B
25	Little Valley Pipeline (abandoned)	4.90 miles of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe	None	822009
26	Little Valley Pipeline Trough #1	2,350 gallon 14' diameter x 2' deep round fiberglass trough	Mitchell	822009C
27	Little Valley Pipeline Trough #2	1700 gallon 12' diameter x 2' deep round steel trough	Mitchell	822009D
28	Little Valley Pipeline Trough #3	1700 gallon 12' diameter x 2' deep round steel trough	Mitchell	822009E
29	Little Valley Pipeline Pond	3000 gallon 40'x 40' x 6' earthen pond	Mitchell	822009F
30	Vernon Reservoir Pipeline	1.43 miles of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe	Mitchell	822011P
31	Vernon Reservoir Pipeline Trough #1	650 gallon 14'x 4'x 18" fiberglass trough	Mitchell	822011T1

Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
32	Vernon Reservoir Pipeline Trough #2	650 gallon 14'x 4'x 18" fiberglass trough	Mitchell	822011T2
33	Vernon Reservoir Pipeline Trough #3	650 gallon 14'x 4'x 18" fiberglass trough	Mitchell	822011T3
34	Vernon Reservoir Pipeline Trough #4	650 gallon 14'x 4'x 18" fiberglass trough	Mitchell	822011T4
35	Bennion Creek Pipeline Segment 1	1.48 miles of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe old segment	Mitchell	822014P1
36	Bennion Creek Pipeline Segment 2	0.269 miles of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe newer segment	Mitchell	822014P2
37	Bennion Creek Pipeline Trough #9	1-140 gallon 10' diameter x 2' deep round steel trough. 1- 750 gallon 8' diameter x 2' deep round steel trough	Mitchell	822014T9
38	Windmill Water Development	Water source from horizontal well with 30 inch steel casing. 0.24 miles of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe. Three 14'x 48"x 19 , 583 gallon, Powder River troughs. Two are galvanized steel.	Mitchell	822013S 822013P 822013T
39	Vernon Reservoir Protection Fence	Steel posts, barb and net wire, log rail	FS Recreation Vernon Irrigation Company	822RC1

Changes in these annual operating instructions must be approved in advance by the Forest Service. We look forward to working with you this coming grazing season.



BENNION ALLOTMENT ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2016

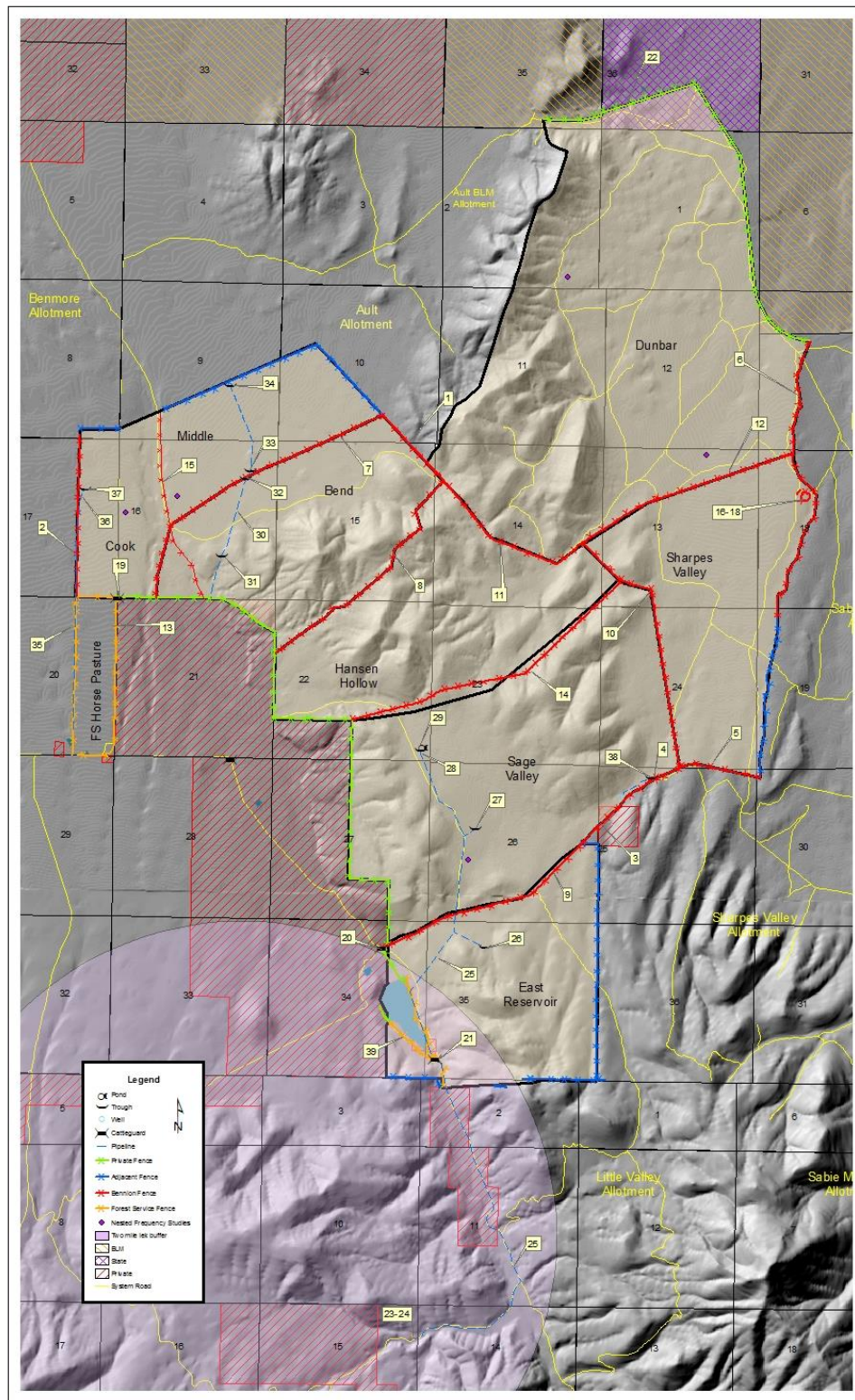
PERMITTEE

DATE

SPANISH FORK DISTRICT RANGER

DATE





Bennion Allotment 2016

U.S. Forest Service
Spanish Fork Ranger District

